



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

The Acting Municipal Manager
Collins Chabane Local Municipality
Private Bag X 9271
Malamulele
0982

04 December 2019

Reference: 62012REG2018/19

Dear Mr Shilenge

Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements and other legal and regulatory requirements of Collins Chabane Local Municipality for the year ended 30 June 2019

1. The above-mentioned report of the Auditor-General is submitted herewith in terms of section 21(1) of the Public Audit Act of South Africa read in conjunction with section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa section 121(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa (MFMA).
2. We have not yet received the other information that will be included in the annual report with the audited financial statements and have thus not been able to establish whether there are any inconsistencies between this information and the audited financial statements and the reported performance against pre-determined objectives. You are requested to supply this information as soon as possible. Once this information is received it will be read and should any inconsistencies be identified these will be communicated to you and you will be requested to make the necessary corrections. Should the corrections not be made we will amend and reissue the audit report.
3. In terms of section 121(3) of the MFMA you are required to include the audit report in the municipality's annual report to be tabled.
4. Until the annual report is tabled as required by section 127(2) of the MFMA the audit report is not a public document and should therefore be treated as confidential.
5. Prior to printing or copying the annual report which will include the audit report you are required to do the following:
 - Submit the final printer's proof of the annual report to the relevant senior manager of the Auditor-General of South Africa for verification of the audit-related references in the audit report and for confirmation that the financial statements and other information are those documents that have been read and audited. Special care should be taken with the page references in your report, since an incorrect reference could have audit implications.
 - The signature *Auditor-General* in the handwriting of the auditor authorised to sign the audit report at the end of the hard copy of the audit report should be scanned in when preparing to print the report. This signature, as well as the place and date of signing and the Auditor-General of South Africa's logo, should appear at the end of the report, as in the hard copy that is provided to you. The official logo will be made available to you in electronic format.

6. Please notify the undersigned Senior Manager well in advance of the date on which the annual report containing this audit report will be tabled.
7. Your cooperation to ensure that all these requirements are met would be much appreciated.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Signed



Senior Manager: Limpopo Business unit

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Report of the auditor-general to Limpopo Provincial Legislature and council on Collins Chabane Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Qualified opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Collins Chabane Local Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, and cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of my report the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Collins Chabane Local Municipality as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Standards of Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act, 2018 (Act No 1 of 2018) (DoRA)

Basis for qualified opinion

Employee benefit obligation

3. The municipality did not have an adequate system in place to maintain records of leave transactions. I identified a significant number of approved leave days that were not recorded in the accounting records. These leave days were included in the leave transaction report which was used to estimate employee benefit obligation for unused leave days. As the municipality did not have an adequate systems to maintain records of leave transactions, I was unable to determine the full extent of overstatement of employee benefit obligation and leave pay provision charge stated at R5 398 115 and R4 079 039 in notes 7.2 and 23 to the financial statements respectively, as it was impractical to do so.

Irregular expenditure

4. The municipality did not record all instances of irregular expenditure as required by section 125(2)(d) of the MFMA. I identified a number of payments made in contravention of the supply chain management requirements (SCM) that were not disclosed in the accounting records. As the municipality did not have adequate systems and controls in place to ensure that all irregular expenditures are disclosed, I was unable to determine the full extent of the understatement of irregular expenditure stated at R129 145 983 (2018: R104 944 111) in note 42 to the financial statements as it was impractical to do so.

Context for the opinion

5. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this auditor's report.
6. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with sections 290 and 291 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* and, parts 1 and 3 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA codes) as well as the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA codes.
7. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Emphasis of matters

8. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

9. As disclosed in note 35 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2018 were restated as a result of an error in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2019.

Material losses/impairment

10. As disclosed in notes 6, 10 and 11 to the financial statements, material losses to the amount of R122 410 523, R28 114 284 and R36 765 276 respectively, were incurred as a result of impairment of other financial assets due to irrecoverability of debt and trade debtors due to inadequate debt collection processes.

11. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unaudited disclosure notes

12. In terms of section 125(2) (e) of the MFMA, the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

13. The supplementary information set out on pages XX to XX does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

14. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP, the MFMA and DoRA, and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
15. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

16. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
17. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

Introduction and scope

18. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
19. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.
20. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2019:

Development priorities	Pages in the annual performance report
KPA 3 – Basic service delivery and infrastructure development	x – x

21. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
22. I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for this development priority.

Other matter

23. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

24. Refer to the annual performance report on [page(s) x to x; x to x] for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year.

Adjustment of material misstatements

25. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information of KPA 3- basic service delivery and infrastructure development. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

Report on the audit of compliance with legislation

Introduction and scope

26. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
27. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

Financial statements, performance and annual reports

28. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA.

29. Material misstatements of revenue, expenditure and disclosures identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected but the uncorrected material misstatements resulted in the financial statements receiving a qualified audit opinion.
30. The annual financial statements were not submitted to the Auditor-General, for auditing, within two months after the end of the financial year, as required by section 126(1)(a) of the MFMA.

Expenditure management

31. Money owed by the municipality was not always paid within 30 days, as required by section 65(2)(e) of the MFMA.
32. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The expenditure disclosed does not reflect the full extent of the irregular expenditure incurred as indicated in the basis for qualification paragraph. The majority of the disclosed irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance of the SCM regulations.
33. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R139 673 000, as disclosed in note 41 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the disclosed fruitless expenditure was caused by late payment of monies due to service providers.
34. Expenditure was incurred in excess of the approved budget, in contravention of section 87(8) of the MFMA.
35. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent unauthorised expenditure amounting to R12 035 928, as disclosed in note 40 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the unauthorised expenditure was caused by overspending on implementation of projects.

Asset management

36. An adequate management, accounting and information system which accounts for assets was not in place, as required by section 63(2)(a) of the MFMA.

Procurement and contract management

37. Some of the quotations were accepted from bidders who did not submit a declaration on whether they are employed by the state or connected to any person employed by the state, as required by SCM regulation 13(c). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
38. Some of the goods and services of a transaction value above R200 000 were procured without inviting competitive bids, as required by SCM regulation 19(a). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
39. Some of the contracts were awarded to bidders who did not submit a declaration on whether they are employed by the state or connected to any person employed by the state, as required by SCM regulation 13(c).
40. The preference point system was not applied on some of the procurement of goods and services above R30 000 as required by section 2(a) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act No 5 of 2000).

41. Awards were made to providers who were in the service of the municipality, in contravention of section 112(j) of the MFMA and SCM regulation 44. Furthermore, the provider failed to declare that he/ she was in the service of the municipality, as required by SCM regulation 13(c).
42. Awards were made to providers who were in the service of other state institutions, in contravention of MFMA 112(j) and SCM regulation 44. Similar awards were identified in the previous year and no effective steps were taken to prevent or combat the abuse of the SCM process, as required by SCM regulation 38(1).
43. Persons in the service of the municipality who had a private or business interest in contracts awarded by the municipality failed to disclose such interest, in contravention of SCM regulation 46(2)(e).

Other information

44. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, which includes the audit committee's report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
45. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
46. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Internal control deficiencies

47. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the qualified opinion and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
48. Management did not always provide the required supervision and review over daily and monthly recording and reconciliation of transactions and account balances to ensure that the municipality complies with all applicable financial reporting requirements.
49. The action plan was not adequately implemented and monitored.
50. The financial statements were not reconciled to the underlying records to ensure the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the reported financial results.
51. Monthly reconciliations for financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations were not subjected to proper review to ensure accuracy, completeness and reliability of the reported financial results.

Auditor-General

Polokwane

04 December 2019



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected development priorities and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor’s report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
 - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality’s internal control
 - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the accounting officer
 - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the municipality’s ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease continuing as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.